WASHINGTON, DC – House Democratic Whip Steny H. Hoyer (MD) released the following statement today regarding the Hurricane Katrina relief efforts:

"My thoughts and prayers continue to be with the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

"I share the victims' frustration, and that of the American people, with the slow and inadequate relief response from the federal government to date.

"Congress clearly has a responsibility to investigate what went wrong both before and after the hurricane and the flooding in New Orleans, and to determine how to better respond to future natural and other national disasters.

"Unfortunately, this national tragedy will certainly not be the last that we face as a nation and we must be better prepared to respond in the future."